

REMARKS

Applicants hereby request further consideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the comments that follow.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the Applicants' attorney, David Beatty, during the telephonic interview of October 6, 2005.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10, 11, 13-15, 17-20, 23, 24 and 45 stand rejected under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Reissue Patent No. 37,340 to King Jr. (King). Claims 27 and 46-48 stand rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,848,913 to Ashcraft (Ashcraft) in view of King. Claims 9, 37 and 38 stand rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over King. Claims 25, 26 and 44 stand rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over King in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,672,846 to Debbaut (Debbaut).

The Action indicates that Claims 32, 36-39, 42 and 43 are allowed, and that Claims 49-51 are objected to but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Interview Summary

During the interview, the Examiner clarified the status of Claim 27 as rejected under Section 103. Additionally, Claim 16 was discussed in view of the cited art including King. The Examiner indicated that Claim 16 appeared to be directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 45 and a proposed amendment thereto were discussed in view of the cited art and the Examiner likewise indicated that Claim 45 so amended appeared to be directed to allowable subject matter.

The Claims as Amended Are in Condition for Allowance

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of former Claim 45 including the amendments discussed during the interview. More particularly, Claim 1 as amended recites "the sealant is located between the entrance opening and the volume." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2-27 and 44 depend from Claim 1 and therefore are allowable as well for at least these reasons. Claim 1 is generic as to withdrawn Claims 3, 4, 21 and 22 and re-entry and allowance of these claims is therefore requested.

The Action indicates that Claims 32 and 36-39 are allowed. New Claim 52 depends from Claim 32. Claim 32 is generic as to withdrawn Claim 33 and re-entry and allowance of this claim is therefore requested.

The Action indicates that Claims 42 and 43 are allowed.

The Action indicated that Claim 49 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 46 has been amended to include the recitations of Claim 49. Claims 47, 48, 50 and 51 depend from Claim 46 as amended.

Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form as new Claim 53 as discussed during the interview. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 53 is allowable over the cited art. New Claims 54-60 depend from Claim 53.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Should the Examiner have any matters outstanding of resolution, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,



David D. Beatty
Registration No. 38,071
Attorney for Applicants


Marguerite E. Gerstner
Tyco Electronics Corporation
Intellectual Property Law Department
M/S R20/2B
307 Constitution Drive
Menlo Park, California 94025-1164
Tel.: 650-361-2483
Fax: 650-361-5623

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Katie Wu